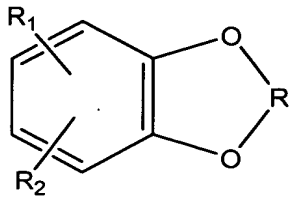
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the hydroxylation of an aromatic ~~compounds containing~~ compound comprising a heterocyclic system ~~having general~~ represented by formula (I) :



(I)

wherein R represents a C_1-C_4 (iso)alkylene radical, ~~whereas~~ and R_1 and R_2~~, the same or different,~~ independently represent a hydrogen atom or a CH_3 radical, or a C_1-C_2 alkoxyl, ~~which comprises~~ said method comprising directly hydroxylating said ~~compounds having general~~ compound represented by formula (I) with H_2O_2 in the presence of a zeolitic catalyst ~~having general~~ represented by formula (II):

$$xTiO_2 \cdot (1\text{-}x)SiO_2 \qquad (II)$$

wherein x is a number ranging from 0.0001 to 0.04~~, preferably from 0.01 to 0.025~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the zeolitic catalyst is used with a particle size ranging from 1 to 1000 μm, ~~preferably from 5 to 100 μm,~~ or in the form of pellets.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2~~, wherein ~~in the product having general formula (I),~~ R is a methylene radical ~~whereas~~ and R_1 and R_2 are two hydrogen atoms.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxylation reaction is carried out in the presence of one or more solvents or directly in mass by feeding hydrogen peroxide, optionally diluted with H_2O, to a suspension of catalyst in the substrate.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 4, wherein the solvent is at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of:

[[-]] aliphatic alcohols~~, in particular C_1-C_{10} linear, branched or cyclic alcohols~~;

[[-]] linear, branched or cyclic aliphatic ketones, with a number of carbon atoms ranging from 3 to 12;

[[-]] linear, branched or cyclic saturated aliphatic hydrocarbons with a number of carbon atoms ranging from 5 to 12;

[[-]] esters selected from dialkyl carbonates wherein the alkyl group ~~contains~~ comprises from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and esters of carboxylic acid having the formula CH_3-COO-R' wherein R' represents a C_1-C_4 radical;

[[-]] linear, branched or cyclic aliphatic ethers, with a number of carbon atoms ranging from 3 to 12; and

[[-]] aliphatic nitriles having the formula R"-CN, wherein R" represents a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst is used in batch reactions, in concentrations, with respect to the substrate, ranging from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the claims from 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in continuous, feeding hydrogen peroxide and the substrate on a layer of catalyst or by passing the reagents through a fixed bed of catalyst in the form of pellets.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the H_2O_2 reagent is used in an aqueous solution with concentrations ranging from 1 to 60% by weight.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims,~~ claim 1, wherein the molar ratio H_2O_2/substrate varies from 0.01 to 0.5~~, preferably from 0.1 to 0.3~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out at a temperature ranging from 10 to 100°C~~, preferably from 40 to 80°C~~.